

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 02073 200947Z

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ACTION NEA-12

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CIAE-00 INR-10 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-03

TRSE-00 NSC-07 SCI-06 OMB-01 PA-04 PRS-01 INRE-00

AGR-20 DRC-01 L-03 AID-20 /106 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3279

INFO AMCONSUL ADANA PRIORITY

USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 2073

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, TU

SUBJECT: REPORTED REMARKS OF SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE
BUTZ ON OPIUM BAN SITUATION

1. FOLLOWING IS FULL TEXT OF REPORT OF INTERVIEW WITH
SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE BUTZ PRINTED IN INSIDE PAGES OF
MARCH 20 "HURRIYET":

BEGIN TEXT

QUOTE TURKEY CANNOT BE PUT UNDER PRESSURE - PART OF THE
PROBLEM WOULD BE SOLVED IF THE CULTIVATION OF POPPY IS DONE
UNDER GOVERNMENT SUPERVISION, SAYS BUTZ UNQUOTE

DOGAN ULUC REPORTS:

NEW YORK (HURRIYET) - THE US SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE,
EARL L. BUTZ, IN HIS SPECIAL MESSAGE TO HURRIYET
YESTERDAY, SAID THAT HE WAS OFFICIALLY INFORMED ABOUT THE
TURKISH GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO PERMIT POPPY CULTIVATION.

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PAGE 02 ANKARA 02073 200947Z

QUOTE I LEARNED OF THE SITUATION BEFORE LEAVING

WASHINGTON. IF POPPY CULTIVATION IS RESUMED UNDER GOVERNMENT CONTROL AN IMPORTANT ASPECT OF THE PROBLEM WILL HAVE BEEN SOLVED. THE IDEAL SOLUTION TO THE ISSUE IS TO ESTABLISH STATE FARMS IN THE POPPY REGIONS AND TO CARRY OUT CULTIVATION UNDER GOVERNMENT SUPERVISION. AS FOR ME, FIRST OF ALL WE DO NOT WANT TO CREATE A SITUATION WHICH COULD PUT THE TURKISH FARMER INTO A DIFFICULT POSITION. UNQUOTE SAID BUTZ.

ANSWERING MY QUESTION AS TO THE ACTIVITIES OF CERTAIN DEMOCRATIC AND REPUBLICAN REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATORS FOR CUTTING US MILITARY AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO TURKEY, IF THE LATTER RETURNS TO POPPY CULTIVATION, SECRETARY BUTZ SAID:

QUOTE THIS IS ABSURD. AND THERE IS NO NEED FOR IT. THE DECISION TO BE TAKEN ON THIS SUBJECT CONCERNS ONLY THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT. NEITHER WE, NOR ANY OTHER COUNTRY, HAVE THE RIGHT TO PUT PRESSURE ON TURKEY OR TO ADVISE HER. UNQUOTE

HOWEVER, CERTAIN AMERICAN CONGRESSMEN, WHO CONSIDER TURKEY THE MAIN SOURCE OF NARCOTICS THREATENING AMERICAN YOUTH, HAVE STARTED TO TAKE ACTION ABOUT THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO RETURN TO POPPY CULTIVATION. THE AMERICAN CONGRESSMEN ARE MAKING REPRESENTATIONS TO THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION TO INCREASE THEIR PRESTIGE IN THE EYES OF THE AMERICAN VOTERS; THEY DEMAND THAT MEASURES BE TAKEN FOR THE CONTINUATION OF THE POPPY BAN, WHICH HAD BEEN ANNOUNCED BY PROF. ERIM'S GOVERNMENT. END TEXT

2. COMMENT: OBVIOUSLY, THIS STATEMENT, AS REPORTED, MOST DAMAGING TO POSITION USG HAS BEEN TAKING, IN WASHINGTON AND IN ANKARA, WITH REPS OF THE GOT. WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING BY IMMEDIATE CABLE CLARIFICATION THIS REPORTED INTERVIEW. IF USG WISHING CONTINUE HARD LINE ON POPPY RESUMPTION, AN IMMEDIATE DENIAL BY SECRETARY BUTZ THAT HE WAS ENDORSING TURKEY'S RETURN TO CULTIVATION IS ESSENTIAL.
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